

THE MORNING NEWS

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Aruba's crowns the Diamond Jubilee Children's Queen Sheqayli Ascencion



1st Runner-up and Best Costume Tamara Vrolijk - Noord

Crowning the queen Oranjestad y Companashi Sheqayli Ascencion

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba conducted its own version of Toddlers & Tiaras on Friday evening, January 31, with the gala Children's Carnival Queen pageant at the Aruba Entertainment Center in Oranjestad. Thousands of supporters turned out to cheer on their candidates, a record number to compete during this landmark Diamond Jubilee Carnival.

Ten gorgeously costumed and vivacious young ladies of ten years old and under, demonstrated their wit, beauty, singing and dancing talent, and pure stamina and energy over the almost 5 hours of demanding competition. All ten candidates received goody baskets of valuable gifts from the sponsors of the event, including iPad tablets from principal sponsor, SETAR N.V., Aruba's national telecommunications provider.

Despite the overall charm and delightful performances, the judges and the public singled out Reina Infantil of Oranjestad and Companashi Sheqayli Ascencion and Reina Infantil Noord Tamara Vrolijk, who took home all the prizes in the various individual award categories. There was little surprise when Sheqayli was announced as the new 39th Annual Children's Queen and Tamara First Runner Up, unlike some of the last minute upsets of the past few years.



Reina Infantil 39 in her costume

Sheqayli won the prize for Best Speech and Best Show, and Tamara claimed Best Costume, Most Popular and SETAR Queen.

Second Runner Up this year is Reina Infantil Santa Cruz Jada van Heyningen, Third Runner Up, Reina Infantil Pierewietje Zairaey Colmenares, and Fourth Runner Up Reina Infantil is TOB candidate Jeany Boekhoudt.

Continued on pg 2



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Israel, US locked in spat over Kerry boycott remark

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israel and Washington were at loggerheads on Sunday after senior Israeli figures attacked US Secretary of State John Kerry for warning of a growing boycott threat if peace talks fail.

The latest spat erupted a day after Kerry warned of the potential economic impact on Israel if the US-brokered negotiations with the Palestinians collapsed, in which he made reference to "talk of boycotts."

His remarks sparked several outspoken reactions from senior cabinet ministers in Israel, which prompted an unusually pointed response from the US State Department urging Kerry's critics to get their facts straight.

"For Israel there's an increasing de-legitimation campaign that has been building up. People are very sensitive to it. There are talk of boycotts and other kinds of things," the US diplomat warned at a security conference in Munich on Saturday.

His remarks quickly came under attack by a series of hardline Israeli ministers, one describing them as "offensive" and another accusing the US diplomat of working "to amplify" the boycott threat.

And even Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the cabinet that "attempts to impose a boycott on the State of Israel are immoral and unjust."

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Aruba's crowns children's Queen...

Cont. from pg 1



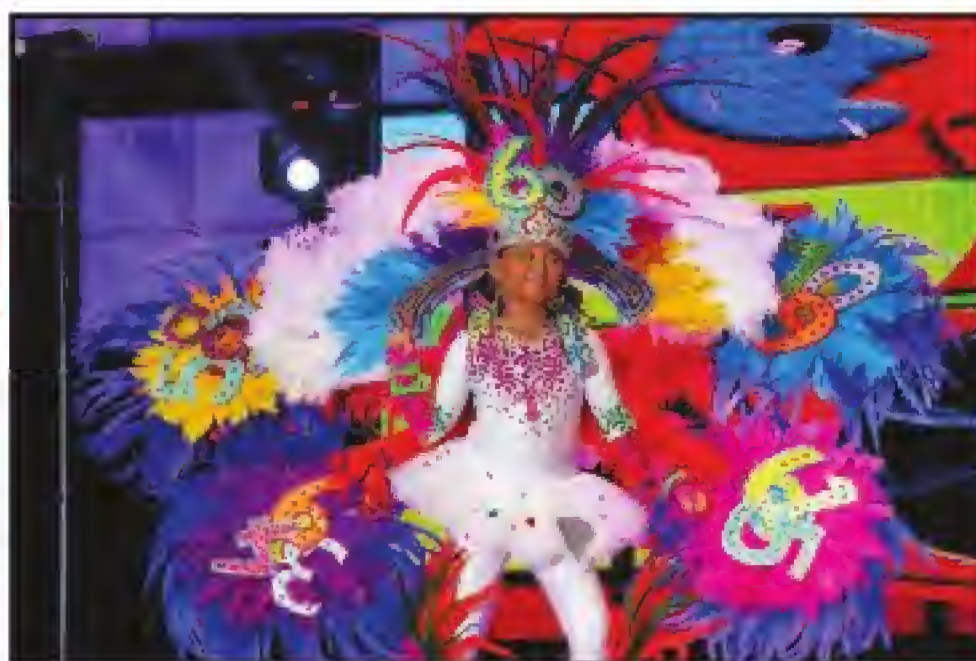
2nd Runner up Santa Cruz
Jada van Heyningen



Third runner up Pierewietje
Zairaey Colmenares



4th Runner Up TOB Jeany
Boekhoudt
The young ladies will still
represent their various groups



during all the upcoming carnival parades, gorgeously costumed and gowned as they were during the competition.

There was little doubt among carnival pageant pundits that the adorable and vivacious pixie representing Oranjestad would take the crown.

During an exhausting

evening, Sheqayli's smile and energy never wavered, especially as Rosila Acosta of Aruba Bank, another principal sponsor of this year's carnival, along with SAC President Tecla Kelly-Hernandez, placed the crown upon her head.

Viva La Reina Infantil of Carnival 60!!

By Rosalie Klein

Indian Association of Aruba celebrated 65th Republic Day with cultural exhibit at UNOCA



Indian Association leaders Prakash and Niti Gupta with
Minsiter Yrausquin and wife



ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's extensive East Indian community shared their culture history with islanders during a one-week exhibit at the UNOCA building in Oranjestad. It opened on Monday, January 27, commemorating the 65th Indian Republic Day, which was Sunday, January 26, the date on which the Constitution of India came into force in 1950, re-

placing the Government of India Act of 1935 as the governing document of India.

India achieved independence from British rule on 15 August 1947 following the Indian independence movement noted for largely peaceful nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience led by the Indian National Congress.

Continued on pg 4

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Bon Bini Festival is Tuesday night!



The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tomorrow night at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Bon Bini Festival is the only weekly folkloric event on the island. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature folkloric music by Tico y sus Estrellas, Tingilingi Box "Ban Baile" soloist performing will be Hilyanne Croes and steelband "The New Generation."

Poet Laura Lock will be reciting some poems also.

The event will be hosted by Ryan Maduro.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$5.

Come and experience a taste of our 'dushi' Aruba.

Minister of Education emphatic:

"Every child has the right to education regardless of their nationality"



ORANJESTAD -- "Every child no matter if they are Chinese, Haitian, Dominican, Puerto Rican, Venezuelan, Colombian or from whichever other country, if they are living here on our island they must have access to an education. And we as the government must ensure that there are schools fitted to receive and guide these children," according to Minister of Education Hooiboe-Winklaar.

"It doesn't matter what language they speak, it is important what language they will learn eventually at the end of their studies." The Minister is convinced that this school needs a great deal of help to be able to operate productively and she will her utmost to grant the help needed.

The Minister of Education also paid a visit to the J.N. Andrews Kindergarden where many children do not speak neither Papiamentu nor Dutch. The last school on the Minister's visit was the EPB in San Nicolaas.

Here the Minister received a full tour of the school's premises and was introduced to the different units students

can study. After setting up an area equal to a restaurant, the Horeca students prepared snacks for the Minister to taste and show their talents in the kitchen.

The preparation of the snacks as well as the service was done by the same students. They prepared the goodies and served them too!



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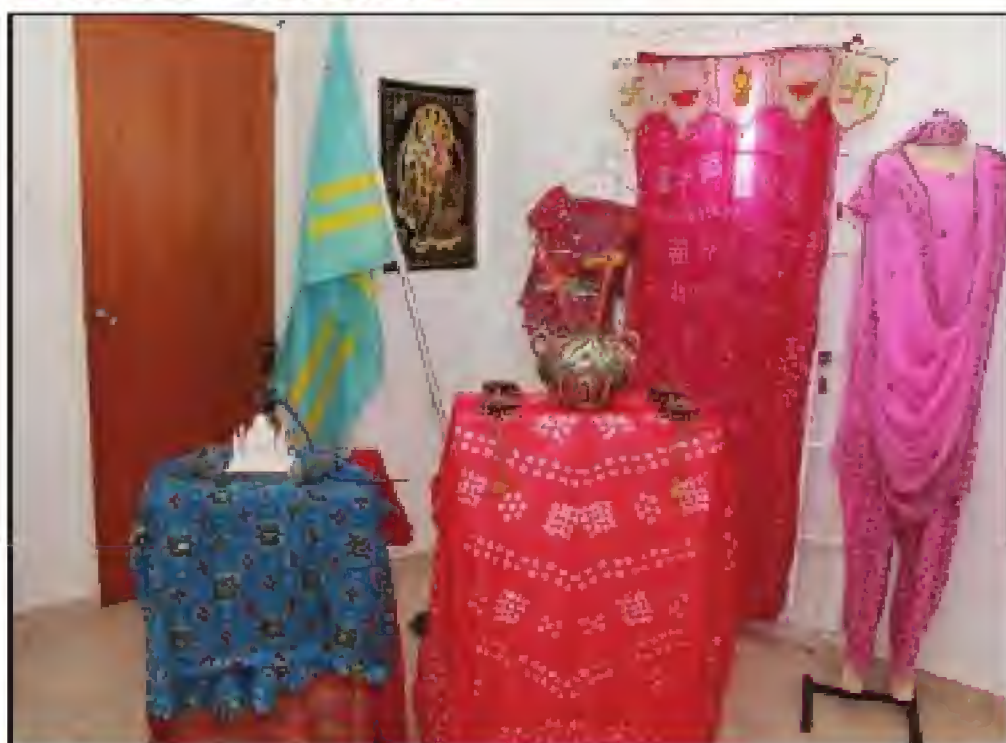
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Indian Association of Aruba celebrated 65th Republic Day...

Cont. from pg 2



The independence came through the Indian Independence Act 1947 (10 & 11 Geo 6 c. 30), an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that partitioned British India into the two new independent Dominions of the British Commonwealth (later Commonwealth of Nations): India and Pakistan. India obtained its independence on 15 August 1947 as a constitutional

monarchy with George VI as head of state and the Earl Mountbatten as governor-general.

India did not yet have a permanent constitution; instead its laws were based on the modified colonial Government of India Act 1935. On 28 August 1947, the Drafting Committee was appointed to draft a permanent constitution, with Dr. B. R.

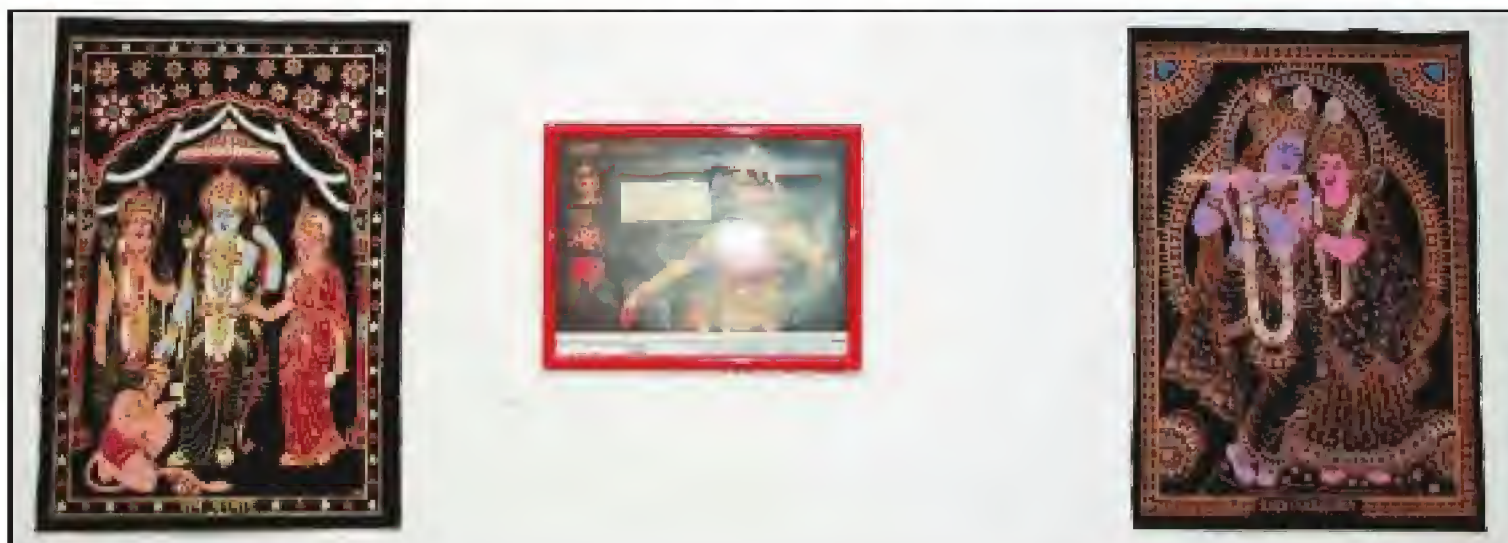
Ambedkar as chairman. While India's Independence Day celebrates its freedom from British Rule, the Republic Day celebrates the coming into force of its constitution.


President of the IAA of Aruba, Prakash Gupta and his wife Niti, hosted a gala closing of the program on Friday evening, January 31, welcoming island dignitaries and cultural icons.

Though much of the exhibit focuses on Indian culture and traditions, a major portion looks at the life and legacy of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, best known through the world by the honorific Mahatma. He was the acknowledged leader and driving force behind the movement for Indian Independence, always through peaceful means.

A handout by the IAA recounts "Gandhi" was a shy and timid child, "but his personal experience of indignities obliged him to tap his hidden moral resources and turned this ordinary person into "Mahatma-A Great Soul." His principles of non-violence and truth gave courage to millions of unarmed people all over the world, as they garnered attention and admiration of the world. The story of this great miracle is also the story of Gandhi's life."

The final evening of the exhibit was punctuated by a screening of the acclaimed 1996 Bollywood film "The Making of The Mahatma," starring famed Indian actor Rajit Kapoor, who won the National Film Award for Best Actor in the roll of Gandhi. The film also was awarded the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in English of 1996. it recounted Gandhi's early years and experiences, particularly in South Africa, which caused him to evolve from a barrister of India's comfortable merchant cast to a revolutionary leader and iconic historic figure, who inspired other great leaders, such as Martin Luther King.





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UFILCOA turns over funds raised during "Hope and Resilience" at Paseo Herencia



UFILCOA officers and involved parties



Grace Cavelo Rustia of ABS CBN and UFILCOA President Ricky de Peralta

ORANJESTAD -- In December of last year, the United Filipino Community of Aruba, or UFILCOA, partnered with Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall to conduct a fundraising concert on behalf of the victims of Typhoon Haiyan, back in their homeland.

Several of the island's top vocalists and a number of musical groups donated their time and talent. Volunteers prepared and donated massive amounts of traditional Philippine cuisine to be sold to raised funds, which proved very popular.

The true taste of Filipino food and hospitality raised substantial funds, "beyond our expectations," reported UFILCOA President Ricky de Peralta, as the island community and visitors alike responded generously to the fundraising event titled "Hope and Resilience."

On Saturday evening, February 1, UFILCOA and Paseo Herencia were very proud to welcome ABS CBN Foundation Global Ambassador Johnny Rustia, and his wife, noted news anchor and current Chair of the Asian Affair News and Events of WPVI-ABC News Pennsyl-

vania, Grace Cavelo-Rustia, for an equally festive celebration of officially donating the funds collected.

ABS CBN is a famous Philippine-themed international news network, serving the global Filipino community with news of their compatriots around the world. Mr. Rustia works exclusively for the ABS CBN Foundation, which was founded over 60 years past. It has played a major role in the rescue and rehabilitation programs established for the areas affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

The ceremony was conducted at Paseo Herencia, again showcasing the incredible talent of Filipino singers Janine Preche and Romeo Kilayko, part of the Aruban community, during the ceremony. It was UFILCOA's way of saying thank you to all those who supported their efforts to assist the thousands left homeless in the wake of the most disastrous storm the Philippines has witnessed.

ABS CBN has been broadcasting their efforts, with Managing Director of ABS CBN Foundation International, Joanne Kayle, on site, personally overseeing the full deployment of do-

nated funds. Interested parties can follow the real-time updates on their Facebook page.

"They are coordinating with local government to avoid duplication and prioritization on hard to reach areas," explained Mr. Rutia on Saturday evening. "Also, we are coordinating with vehicle owners and dispatch for transfer of goods and the military for operational security for the transfer of food."

Aside from immediate relief with food and temporary shelter, the multi-pronged program of ABS CBN Foundation is aimed at rehabilitation of the affected communities and prevention of such disasters in the future. The foundation has already completed the rebuilding of four schools and donated fifty fishing boats, allowing those who had lost their homes and livelihoods to resume their normal lives. They plan for another fifty fishing boats to follow shortly.

"Answering the people's call for help doesn't end with the relief operations," he continued. "Sagip Kapamilya embarks on the rehabilitation project to 'build back better' the lives of families, which includes school repairs, malnutrition programs for children...and water system installations."

"The Sagip Kapamilya project advocates disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction...in answer to the callm Sagip Kapamilya produces educational videos on disaster risk reduction." The first episode is about "Earthquakes", second is titled "Typhoon" and the third "Climate Change." All of these address rebuilding in a

better way to as to prevent such destruction, loss of life and homelessness in the future.

Aside from the lion's share of the funds raised being donated to this foundation, which deploys 100% of all donated funds to disaster victims, a portion of the "Hope and Resilience" monies were given to Filipinos living on Aruba with family back home left destitute by the storm. Eddie Antiquia, Dioscoro Miro, Eddie Grajo,

Leopoldo Asaytuno, Jenny Isip, Joselito Lerio, Maricar van Burik and Augustin Cadeo were very grateful for the direct donations to their loved ones.

Ricky de Peralta thanked the many who dedicated their time, Paseo Herencia for their complete support of their efforts, and the Aruban people for their sympathetic response for a land so very far away.

Rosalie Klein

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Israel, US locked in spat...

Cont. from pg 1

"Moreover, they will not achieve their goal."

But US State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki hit back at Kerry's critics.

Kerry, she said, had demonstrated steadfast support of Israel for over 30 years, "including staunch opposition to boycotts" and his remarks in Munich had merely "described some well-known and previously stated facts about what is at stake for both sides if this process fails, including the consequences for the Palestinians."

"His only reference to a boycott was a description of actions undertaken by others that he has always opposed," she said.

"Secretary Kerry has always expected opposition and difficult moments in the process, but he also expects all parties to accurately portray his record and statements."

Earlier, Intelligence Minister Yuval Steinitz lashed out at Kerry in remarks carried by Israel's army radio.

"What Kerry said is offensive, unfair and intolerable," he said.

"You can't expect Israel to negotiate with a gun at its head while it discusses issues critical to its diplomatic and security interests."

And Economy Minister Naftali Bennett of the far-right Jewish Home party, which is part of the ruling coalition but against territorial concessions to Palestinians, accused Kerry of taking sides against Israel.

"There is no nation that would give its country up over economic threats, and neither will we," he said in a statement issued late on Saturday.

"We expect our friends in the world to stand by our side in the face of the anti-Semitic boycott attempts, not amplify them."

BDS aims for South Africa success

A growing number of governments and businesses have recently said they will not trade with Israeli firms

with ties to Jewish settlements, highlighting the creeping success of a Palestinian-led boycott campaign.

The so-called BDS movement -- boycott, divestment and sanctions -- works to convince governments, businesses and celebrities to cut ties with Israeli companies active in the occupied Palestinian territories, in a bid to repeat the success of the boycott which ended apartheid in South Africa.

Last week, US actress Scarlett Johansson was forced to choose between being an ambassador for Oxfam and taking on a new role as the public face of Israel's SodaStream, which has a factory in the West Bank, after the international aid group said the two roles were "incompatible."

She resigned her position at Oxfam.

On the same day, Norway's sovereign wealth fund blacklisted two Israeli companies involved in construction in annexed east Jerusalem.

US groundhog Phil sees shadow, predicts more winter

WASHINGTON (AFP) - In a colorful annual ritual of dubious accuracy, the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil emerged from his burrow Sunday and saw his shadow, thus predicting six more weeks of winter.

The Pennsylvania rodent is the most famous of the furry weather forecasters for "Groundhog Day," an event with early roots in German folklore -- and rather more in US media showbiz.

According to legend, if Phil had not seen his shadow then spring would soon be on its way, bringing relief to a nation that has survived an especially harsh winter.

But instead, the groundhog purportedly announced: "That's not a football lying beside me, it's my shadow



you see/ So, six more weeks of winter it shall be!"

The proclamation, posted on the website groundhog.org, referred to Sunday's other big event -- the Super Bowl -- held in New Jersey this year, for the first time in an outdoor arena.

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Pennsylvania town of Punxsutawney.

It started with a German tradition in which farmers closely monitored the animal's behavior to make decisions about when their fields should be planted.

The town, which claims to have held its first Groundhog Day in the 1800s, is the undisputed headquarters for the unscientific experiment.

The groundhog, or rather his long line of ancestors and look-alikes bearing the same name, is a national media star and was at the center of the 1993 Bill Murray comedy "Groundhog Day."

Last year, Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring.

The groundhog said he could not predict whether the Denver Broncos or the Seattle Seahawks would win the National Football League championship game.

Groundhog Day falls on February 2 each year, attracting large crowds to the little



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Mandela's will to be made public Today

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - The dying wishes of South Africa's anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela will be revealed on Today, the Constitutional Court announced.

"The executors in the estate... invite you to a media briefing on the contents of his last will and testament," the court's vice president, Dikgang Moseneke, said in a statement Sunday nearly two months after Mandela died on December 5.

The Mandela Foundation will reveal the contents at mid-day on Monday at the foundation, he said.

A spokeswoman for the foundation, Danielle Melville, told AFP: "I don't know if the entire document will be read, but certainly it will be summarised."

Mandela became South Africa's first black president in 1994 after spending 27 years in apartheid prisons.

Bodies litter looted South Sudan town

BOR (AFP) - All that remains of Bor, a small market town that has changed hands four times in the latest South Sudan conflict, is an overwhelming smell of putrefying bodies and scattered trash that successive waves of looters ignored.

Warped sheets of rusting corrugated iron roofing, apparently the remains of market stalls, lie in tangled heaps.

Scattered across the street are the objects the looters did not want -- ragged bits of clothing, cardboard boxes, single plastic slippers.

The ruins of the town, in which hundreds of civilians were killed, in some cases shot in the back as they fled, are eerily silent.

Towards the town centre a barefoot woman scurries across the main street, a table on her head.

Residents have started trickling slowly back into town for a few hours just to see if they can salvage any belongings the looters left behind.

Some of the bodies have been piled into shallow graves. Others still litter the streets, the white plastic sheeting -- now covered with a thick layer of yellow dust -- that covers some of them shields them from view but fails to disguise the

fetid smell after days or weeks in the baking heat. Pedestrians hurrying past hold their breath.

The mayor of Bor, Nhial Majak Nhial is angry. He says his priority is to see the rebels who raped and massacred in cold blood women, children and those too old to flee held accountable.

It would be premature for residents to resettle the town right now, he said.

Tens of thousands fled Bor and its surrounding villages, preferring to take their chances against crocodiles in the White Nile and sniper fire from its banks -- anything to get out of town. Hundreds drowned in the attempt. Those who made it are now camping under trees in Aweril county on the other side of the river, where some have received help from aid agencies.

Those who did not flee are for the most part dead.

Across town stands St Andrews Episcopal Church where some 40 people were massacred. A side building has partially collapsed after being set on fire.

Along the roads outside the town, where the odd military pickup bounces past, raising a storm of dust, similar atrocities have taken place.



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Obama says Sochi Olympics 'safe'



Russian policemen carry machine guns as they patrol the Rosa Khutor alpine center in the mountain cluster on Sunday prior to the start of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama said in an interview that aired Friday that the upcoming Winter Olympics in Sochi will be "safe," although he cautioned there were "always some risks" of a terror attack.

The United States has "a good sense" of the security measures being put in place by Russia, Obama said, adding that Americans planning to go to the Games in the Black Sea resort should do so.

"I'd tell them that I believe Sochi is safe, and that there are always some risks in these large international gatherings," he said in the interview with CNN.

"But the Russian authorities understand the stakes here. They understand there are potential threats that are out there, and we are coordinating with them," Obama said.

Obama's comments followed warnings by some prominent US lawmakers of the heightened risk of attacks and complaints that the Russians were not sharing intelligence with the Americans.

Some had said they would advise their constituents and family members to stay away from the Games, which run from February 7-23.

Security fears have been exacerbated by two suicide bombings in the southern city

of Volgograd last month -- Russia's deadliest in three years -- that killed 34 people.

US National Intelligence Director James Clapper said earlier this week that there had been a rise in reported threats related to the Winter Games, which was not unusual for big international events.

But Obama said, "We're not discouraging in any way Americans from participating in what is always an amazing and wonderful event."

"In these large settings like this, there are always some risks involved. And I don't want to completely discount those."

"As we've seen here in the United States, the Boston Marathon, there were some risks if you have cells of folks who are trying to do some damage."

He was referring to two bombings near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013 that killed three people and injured 264 others.

The attack was allegedly carried out by two ethnic Chechen brothers, Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev.

Federal prosecutors said this week they will seek the death penalty for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who was 19 at the time of the attacks. His 26-year-old brother Tamerlan was killed in a shoot-out with police.

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US regulators probing cardio risks in testosterone products

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US federal regulators said Friday they were investigating products containing testosterone after recent studies suggested a higher risk of strokes and heart attacks in men being treated with the hormone.

The Food and Drug Administration stressed, however, that it has "not concluded that FDA-approved testosterone treatment increases the risk of stroke, heart attack or death."

Patients undergoing testosterone therapy should not stop their treatment without consulting their physician first, the FDA recommended.

Health care professionals were also asked to consider whether the benefits of FDA-approved testosterone treatment were likely to outweigh the possible risk of treatment.

The announcement followed publication of a study on Wednesday by the PLOS ONE science journal suggesting that men aged 65 and older being

treated with testosterone were twice as likely to suffer heart attacks in the month after they began treatment.

The study, which analyzed findings from 56,000 men in the United States between 2008 and 2010, also revealed a sharply increased risk among younger men with a history of heart disease.

In November, a separate clinical study in the Journal of the American Medical Association reported that older men using testosterone, including many with a history of heart problems, faced a 30 percent greater chance of mortality, heart attack or cardiovascular event.

A US government-funded study to determine whether men using testosterone gel to build muscle and increase strength was halted in 2009 after the high rate of cardiovascular problems related to the treatment.

Tens of thousands march in Paris to back traditional family



PARIS (AFP) - Tens of thousands of people marched in Paris and Lyon on Sunday against new laws easing abortion restrictions and legalising gay marriage, accusing French President Francois Hollande's government of "family phobia".

Police said 80,000 people took to the streets of the French capital, creating a sea of blue, white and pink -- the colours of the lead organising movement LMPT (Protest for Everyone) -- who gave a far higher turnout figure of half a million.

Demonstrator Philippe Blin, a pastor from nearby Sevres, said he felt a "relentlessness against the family" in France.

At least 20,000 rallied in Lyon, many of them ferried in aboard dozens of buses, waving placards reading "Mom and Dad, There's Nothing Better for a Child" and "Two Fathers, Two Mothers, Children With No Bearings" -- a slogan that rhymes in French.

Organisers in the south-central city estimated the crowd at 40,000, their statement describing a "wave of blue and pink".

"We are in a society that has lost many of its bearings, and everything that was an institution... which served as a foundation... has gradually disappeared," said one pro-

tester in his 40s who gave his name only as Eric. "Attacks against the family are dangerous for the family, for children, for the country."

LMPT's president, Ludovine de la Rochere, said she was thrilled with the turnout and appealed to the government to respond to the marchers' concerns.

The movement opposes a slew of policies under Hollande -- the most unpopular French president of modern times -- including last year's law allowing gay marriage.

Other targets of LMPT's protests include medically assisted procreation techniques for lesbian couples and in vitro fertilisation.

They are also demanding the scrapping of an experimental

school programme aimed at combatting gender stereotypes.

In Lyon, politicians wearing their tricolour sashes walked at the front of the march behind a banner reading, in English, "Brussels, Leave Our Kids Alone".

LMPT official Francois de Vivies said the European Parliament was set to review a report on Tuesday that "again tries to tell us how we are supposed to educate our children".

The report calls for a new EU action plan to combat homophobia.

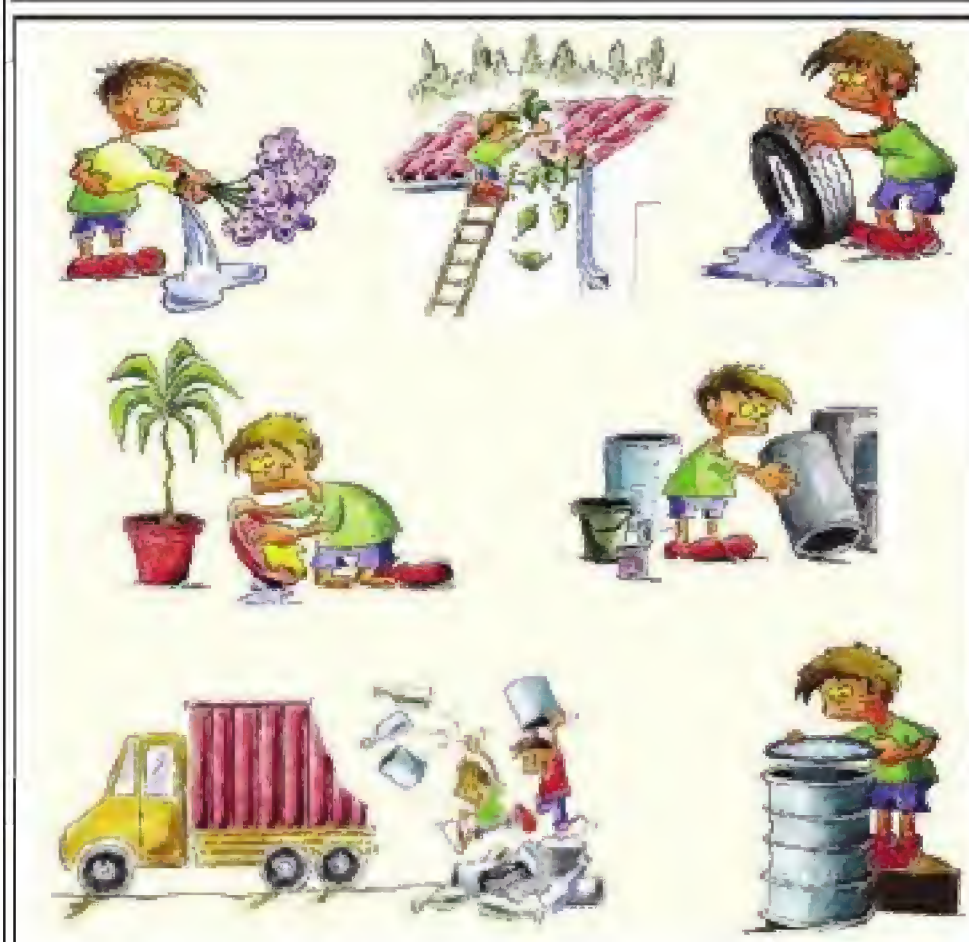
On Sunday, a few counter-demonstrators waved signs behind De la Rochere as she gave a stand-up television interview, one reading: "Protect Our Children from the Witches".

The mass protests come a week after several thousand people marched through Paris in a "Day of Anger" against Hollande's Socialist government.

Some shouted anti-Semitic slogans, and the demonstration ended in clashes between police and protesters that left 19 police officers wounded and led to the detention of 226 people.

Twelve far-right activists and half a dozen right-wing nationalists were briefly detained because of fears that they wanted to cause trouble, police said.

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Acqua Condominium Aruba announces that construction has been progressing at a brisk pace



The East Tower, overlooking Palm Beach boasts 208 condos, spread over 14 floors. The two top building floors embrace 16 penthouse apartments with majestic views. The building is simply awaiting the windows and a few finishing touches, to conclude construc-

tion, very possibly by the end of this year. Following the completion of the elegant clubhouse, the tropical landscaped pool and the spacious parking lots, the condos will be delivered to their proud new owners. Ground has been cleared for the North Tower, which

will follow as soon as the East Tower is completed.

A spokesperson for Acqua Condo Aruba reports that the project is receiving tremendous attention, particularly for the winter months. Snow-birds longing to reside in a vacation home on Aruba are now able to visualize this dream coming true, in a manner that leaves them utterly care free when not in residence.

Making the decision to purchase and acting on it quickly, was recently made even more imperative. In November of 2010, the island government of Aruba reiterated its commitment to a building moratorium for the next 10 years, making Acqua Condominium a truly unique investment opportunity, as it is the one and only high-rise condo project, on property land, in the island's most-desired location.

In view of the moratorium news, and the project's lucrative position, developers were compelled to discontinue the pre-construction discounts. Nevertheless, other purchase incentives have introduced. Special discount offers in effect at present are:

Pay 30% down payment and



get 10% discount, 50% down payment, get 15% discount, pay in full for a 25% discount. Prices start at \$ 296,800 for a 2-bedroom/2 bathroom apartment. Paying cash will allow the buyer to obtain this very same unit for only \$ 222,600 - remarkable savings!

Other incentives: The opportunity to profit from your purchase is also available to buyers when they place their unit in a rental pool year.

If the image of Aqua Condominium tugs at your heartstrings, you are invited to visit the sales gallery and the two elegant model-suites available for viewing, fully finished with luxurious touches and high-end amenities.

The sales center is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. nonstop, and Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. You are invited to meet the sales team who will guide you through the purchase of the stylish condo of your dreams, allowing you to return to Aruba as often as you wish.

You will find the website very helpful.

Take a virtual tour and garner info regarding all legal documents, floor plans, furnishings and finishing at: www.acquaruba.com

Acqua Condominium Aruba, J.E. Irausquin Boulevard z/n. Palm Beach Aruba.

US actor Philip Seymour Hoffman found dead in New York



NEW YORK (AFP) - Oscar-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman was found dead in his New York apartment Sunday, a law enforcement official said. He was 46. Media reports suggested a drug overdose could be to blame, but the official, who declined to be named, told AFP the cause of death was under investigation. Police responded to the scene in Manhattan's West Village after receiving a call. The Wall Street Journal, which broke the story, said Hoffman was found with a needle in his arm by a screenwriter in the bathroom of his apartment. Hoffman - whose recent movies included "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and "The Master" -- won an Oscar for best actor in 2006 for "Capote" and was seen as one of the pre-eminent actors of his generation. Born Philip Hoffman in July 1967 in New York state, he was the third of four children of a Xerox executive and a feminist housewife who divorced when he was nine. After inserting his grandfather's name, Seymour, between his existing names, he made his big screen debut in a 1991 independent film called "Triple Bogey on a Par Five Hole."

Hermione should have married Harry Potter, Rowling admits

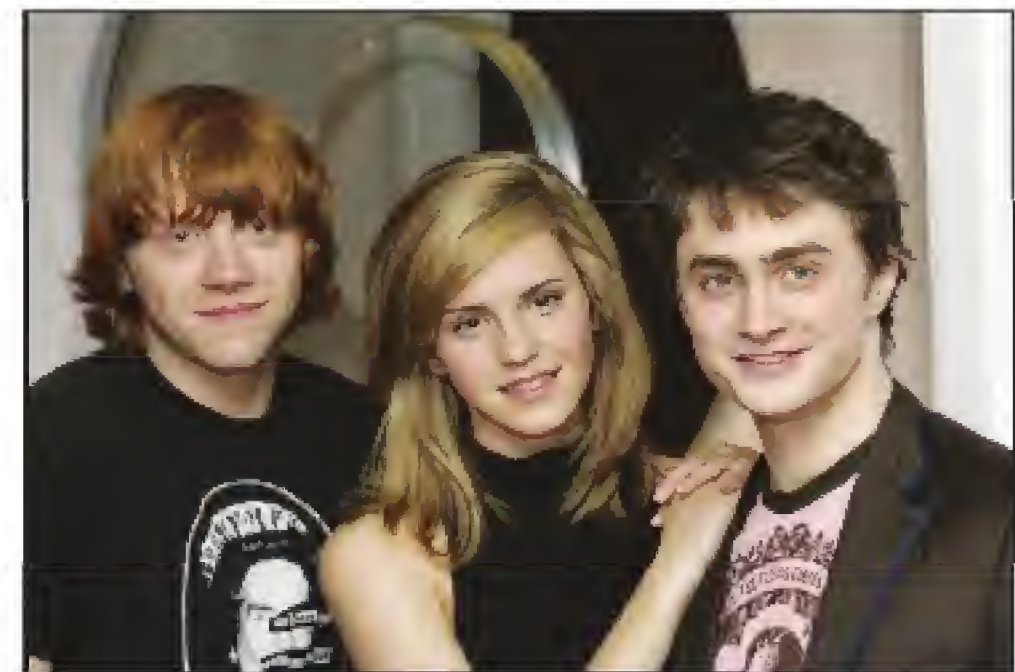
LONDON (AFP) - After years of squabbling, Harry Potter's best friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger finally became an item -- but now their creator JK Rowling has admitted she made a mistake by marrying them off.

Hermione -- whose quick wits get the teen wizards out of many a scrape in Rowling's hit novels -- would have been better off with hero Harry, the British author said in comments published by the Sunday Times newspaper.

In fact, Ron and Hermione would likely have ended up in marriage counselling, Rowling suggested.

"For reasons that have very little to do with literature and far more to do with me clinging to the plot as I first imagined it, Hermione ended up with Ron," Rowling says in an interview with Wonderland magazine, previewed by the Sunday Times and due out next Friday.

"I know, I'm sorry, I can hear the rage and fury it might cause some fans, but if I'm ab-



solutely honest, distance has given me perspective on that. It was a choice I made for very personal reasons, not for reasons of credibility

"Am I breaking people's hearts by saying this? I hope not."

Rowling's interviewer in Wonderland was none other than British actress Emma Watson, who played Hermione in the blockbuster movie series based on the Potter books.

The actress agreed with Rowling, saying, "I think there are fans out there who know

that too and who wonder whether Ron would have really been able to make her happy."

Rowling has sold more than 450 million copies of the Harry Potter books, which were made into eight films starring Daniel Radcliffe, Watson and Rupert Grint as Ron.

The franchise has made Rowling an estimated fortune of £560 million (\$920 million, 683 million euros), according to the Sunday Times' Rich List 2013.



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Sao Paulo swelters in record heatwave

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Residents of Brazil's business hub Sao Paulo are sweltering in record temperatures after a January with the highest average in 70 years, while low rainfall could lead to water rationing.

Meteorologists recorded 35.8 Celsius (96.4 Fahrenheit) Saturday afternoon -- the highest February temperature since records began in 1943. And the Inmet meteorological institute said Sunday the hot spell would continue.

The seething metropolis of 20 million has been laboring under baking conditions since the turn of the year.

Average temperatures of 31.9 Celsius made January the hottest in 71 years.

The unrelenting heat -- along with rainfall at an 80-year low -- has left water levels at the main reservoir serving the city at their lowest levels in a decade, leading water and sewage services company Sabesp to warn it may have to impose rationing.

Fears death toll could rise in Indonesia volcano eruption



KARO (AFP) - Indonesian officials searched through thick ash for bodies Sunday after Mount Sinabung volcano erupted, killing at least 15 people, with the only sign of life an ownerless mobile phone ringing inside an abandoned bag.

Dark, searing clouds engulfed victims during the eruption on Saturday, leaving rescuers with little hope of finding survivors as they searched through ash up to 30 centimetres (12 inches) thick.

Officials said about 170 people armed with chainsaws and oxygen apparatus spread out through the destruction in Sukameriah village, just 2.7 kilometres (1.7 miles) from Sinabung's crater, Sunday before the search was called off.

"There's no sign of human life. All the crops were gone. Many houses were damaged and those still standing were covered in thick white ash. It was hard to walk in ash which nearly reached my calves," Gito, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, told AFP.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, the spokesman for the National Disaster Management Agency, was unable to put a figure to

the number of people still missing, but said there was a "chance" that the death toll might rise.

Residents had been evacuated from the village, located in the "red zone" around the volcano where human activities are strictly banned.

The search was halted Sunday afternoon, said Lieutenant Colonel Asep Sukarna, who led the operation.

They hoped to continue the search tomorrow, he said.

Sukarna was pessimistic about finding anyone alive.

The volcano on the western island of Sumatra started erupting in September, but on Saturday spewed hot rocks and ash 2,000 metres (16,000 feet) into the air, blanketing the surrounding countryside with grey dust.

Fourteen people -- mainly local tourists, including four high school students on a sightseeing trip -- were killed by lethal heat clouds which cascaded down the volcano.

Amid the apocalyptic scenes were ash-covered bodies, their faces swollen and their tongues sticking out, an AFP reporter on the ground said Saturday.

Mother watches child, relatives swept away in Sicily river

ROME (AFP) - An Italian woman watched aghast as her seven-year-old daughter and two other female relatives were swept to their deaths Sunday when an overflowing river in Sicily engulfed their car, media reported.

The family members were all travelling in the same small Lancia hatchback before dawn when it was grabbed by the rushing waters in eastern Sicily.

The woman and three other occupants made it out and to the safety of the riverbank, but her daughter and two other women remained trapped inside and drowned.

Elsewhere on the Italian island, a four-wheel-drive vehicle was also picked up by a raging river, but both occupants were rescued in an operation involving a helicopter.

The incidents occurred as Italy suffered a bout of foul weather over the weekend that has unfurled rain and windstorms across the country, making rivers surge and causing widespread flooding.

Heavy snowfall in the Italian

Alps has disrupted communications and electricity supplies, and resulted in the suspension of some train services with neighbouring Austria.

The meteorological conditions were expected to last into Tuesday.

120,000 households without power as snow, sleet hit Slovenia



LJUBLJANA (AFP) - LJUBLJANA, February 2, 2014 (AFP) - Heavy snow and sleet battering most of Slovenia since Saturday blocked roads and railways, and left 120,000 households without power across the Alpine country, local media reported Sunday. Slovenia's meteorology agency ARSO declared a high alert over most of the country, urging citizens to stay at home and warning the weather conditions on Sunday afternoon and overnight could still pose a serious threat to people and their properties. In the Postojna area, some 40 kilometres (24 miles) south of the capital Ljubljana, power lines collapsed under the weight of ice and snow or falling trees and could not be repaired due to the continuing bad weather. Power cuts were also reported in some areas of Ljubljana, Celje and Maribor, leaving around 120,000 households or some 250,000 citizens in the country of two million people without electricity, private POP tv reported quoting electricity distribution sources.





Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 01/31/2014

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.61
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.98
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	198.39
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	243.15
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.73
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.82
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	28.83
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	176.03

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Eyeing sanctions thaw, Western delegates race to Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) - Six months after the inauguration of Iran's moderate President Hassan Rouhani, Western diplomats and businessmen are racing to Tehran hoping that a diplomatic thaw will reopen lucrative markets.

A landmark agreement reached with world powers on Iran's controversial nuclear programme in November has raised hopes that Western sanctions could be lifted on the oil-rich country with a population of 76 million.

A delegation of 110 members of MEDEF-- France's largest employers' union-- is due in Tehran today to resume talks after an absence of several years.

No contracts will be signed due to the strict international sanctions still in place, but the visit is seen as a key step towards regaining a foothold in the country.

Iran's auto market was once dominated by French giants including Peugeot, which halted operations in 2012, and Renault, which sharply scaled back its presence due to US sanctions on spare parts deliveries in June 2013.

The French firms hope to regain their share against Asian rivals, particularly Chinese firms, which are not bound by the Western sanctions.

The number of cars produced in Iran was more than halved between 2011 and 2013, from 1.7 million to just 500,000.

Iran clinched the interim deal in November with the P5+1 group -- Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany -- under which it agreed to curb its nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.

The six-month agreement, which took effect January 20, is aimed at buying time for a comprehensive agreement.

Western nations have long accused Iran of pursuing a nuclear weapons capability alongside its civilian programme, charges denied by Tehran.

The breakthrough in the talks has been largely attributed to the election last year of Rouhani, a reputed moderate who had vowed to pursue a diplomatic solution to the nuclear impasse.

Iran has also seen recent high-profile political visits, including by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who led a delegation last week aimed at boosting economic ties between the two countries, which back opposite sides in Syria's civil war.

Italian Foreign Minister Emma Bonino visited Tehran in December.

The recent visits of former British foreign minister Jack Straw and ex-UN chief Kofi Annan could be also added to the list.

Smartphone sales top billion, Samsung leads: survey



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The smartphone market hit a milestone in 2013 with more than a billion shipped, a survey showed.

Samsung extended its lead as the world's biggest vendor, accounting for 31.3 percent of sales, ahead of Apple's 15.3 percent, according to the poll by market research and analysis firm IDC.

IDC said vendors delivered a total of 1.004 billion smartphones last year, up 38.4 percent from 2012. And smartphones made up 55 percent of the total mobile phone shipments of 1.8 billion.

"The sheer volume and strong growth attest to the

smartphone's continued popularity in 2013," says Ramon Llamas, an IDC analyst.

"Total smartphone shipments reached 494.4 million units worldwide in 2011, and doubling that volume in just two years demonstrates strong end-user demand and vendor strategies to highlight smartphones."

South Korea's Samsung saw growth of 42.9 percent, allowing it to extend its dominance in the global market, the IDC figures showed.

Apple saw 12.9 percent growth, slower than the overall market, resulting in a declining market share.

China's Huawei narrowly captured the number three spot with a 4.9 percent market share, ahead of South Korea's LG (4.8 percent) and Chinese maker Lenovo (4.5 percent), IDC said.

Data from the fourth quarter showed Apple rebounding slightly with the release of its new iPhone models, and capturing 17.9 percent of sales to Samsung's 28.8 percent.

A separate survey showed that the Android smartphone platform has extended its lead over Apple's iPhone in key markets including the United States, Europe and China.

Windows Phone, meanwhile, has made inroads to se-

cure a strong third place showing in some markets, and is ahead of Apple in Italy, according to the survey of fourth quarter sales released by Kantar Worldpanel.

The survey showed that Android, the free operating system from Google, remained on top in Europe and most other major markets outside Japan.

Android ended 2013 as the top platform across the five major markets in Europe with 68.6 percent share, while Apple held second place with 18.5 percent.

Windows Phone showed strong year-on-year growth, and in Italy captured 17.1 percent of the market, ahead of Apple's 12.8 percent, but behind Android's 66.2 percent, according to the survey.

In the United States, the survey showed Android's share rising more than four percentage points over the past year to 50.6 percent, while Apple's share declined to 43.9 percent.

In Japan, Apple held 68.7 percent of smartphone sales.

In China, Android's share increased to 78.6 percent while Apple's declined to 19 percent.

"Android finished 2013 strongly, showing year-on-year share growth across 12 major global markets including Europe, USA, Latin America, China and Japan," said Kantar's Dominic Sunnebo.

"Windows Phone has now held double-digit share across Europe for three consecutive months," Sunnebo said.

But "unfortunately for Nokia the European smartphone market is only growing at three percent year-on-year so success in this market has not been enough to turn around its fortunes -- reflected in its recent disappointing results."

Coca-Cola workers protest layoffs in Spain

MADRID (AFP) - Thousands of workers from Coca-Cola bottling factories in Spain marched Sunday in protest at plant closures they say will cost 750 jobs.

In red caps and vests bearing the logo of the giant US drinks company, crowds marched in Madrid and the eastern city of Alicante, where two of the threatened plants are located.

Coca-Cola's plan to close four of its bottling factories in Spain is expected to lead to 750 workers being laid off and 500 others being offered relocation to other plants.

The company said last month that the closures were needed to improve efficiency. Workers say the layoffs are unjustified since the company is making a profit.

Workers at the plant in the southern Madrid suburb of Fuenlabrada, one of the capital's poorest districts, have been on strike since Friday in protest.

About 2,000 protesters marched to central Madrid from Fuenlabrada in Sunday's five-hour protest.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

D	A	M	A	R	I	S	K	L	U	M		
A	X	E	P	E	R	U	N	A	S	A		
L	I	T	P	O	K	E	I	C	E	S		
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C	O	M	E		M	A	N	E		N	I	N
A	L	A	S		S	E	N	D		S	S	E



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COMICS

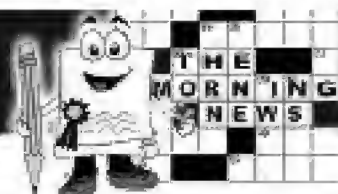
PICKLES



MOMMA



CROSSWORD

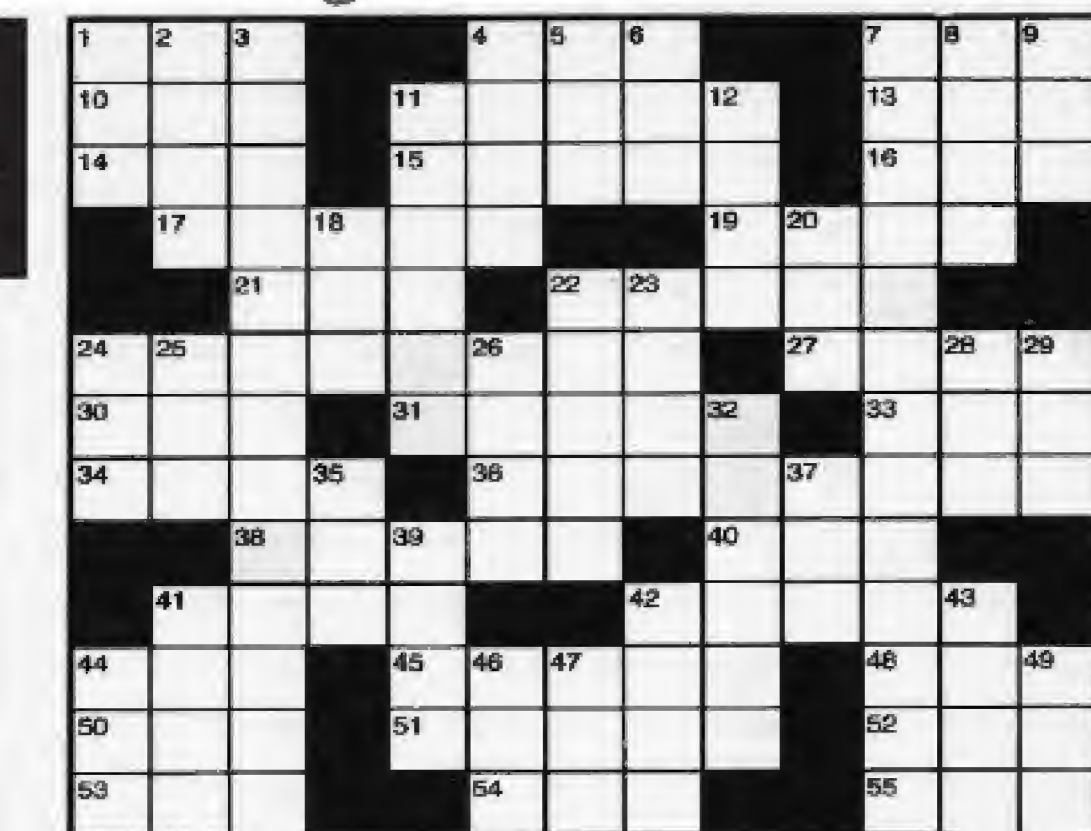


CROSSWORD

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www.themorningnewsaruba.com

ACROSS

1. Pro
4. Singer "King" Cole
7. Angry crowd
10. From ___ Z (2 wds.)
11. Accountant's eyeshade
13. Man ___ mission (2 wds.)
14. Nervous twitch
15. Select few
16. Energy
17. Emulate Brinker
19. "What time ___?" (2 wds.)
21. Confused bustle
22. Light boat for Hiawatha
24. Submitted (2 wds.)
27. Sty dwellers
30. Undeveloped flower
31. Took out
33. Recent (prefix)
34. Monster
36. Said a different way
38. Kilns
40. Actor Jacobi
41. Female Egyptian ruler, for short
42. At ___ for words (2



44. Linden of "Barney Miller"
45. Actress Shearer
48. Conjunction, for short
50. Miner's find
51. Slalom participant
52. Director Howard
53. Always, in verse
54. Flowery season (abbr.)
55. "Certainly!"
- Redding (abbr.)
3. Certain musician (3 wds.)
4. Cairo's waterway
5. "___ live and breathe!" (2 wds.)
6. Little tyke
7. Hollywood business (2 wds.)
8. "Don't bet ___!" (2 wds.)
9. Loud thud
11. Voted down
12. Restraining influence
18. Sum up
20. Dip in liquid
22. Quotes
23. All over again
24. Cable option
25. Leos' mo.
26. "Drat!"
28. "Gosh!"
29. Landscaper's stock
32. One hundred cents
35. Cain's mom
37. Kanga's baby
39. Centuries and centuries
41. Concern
42. U.S. native (abbr.)
43. Footgear
44. Farming implement
46. Green-lights
47. ___ Van Winkle
49. Switch settings

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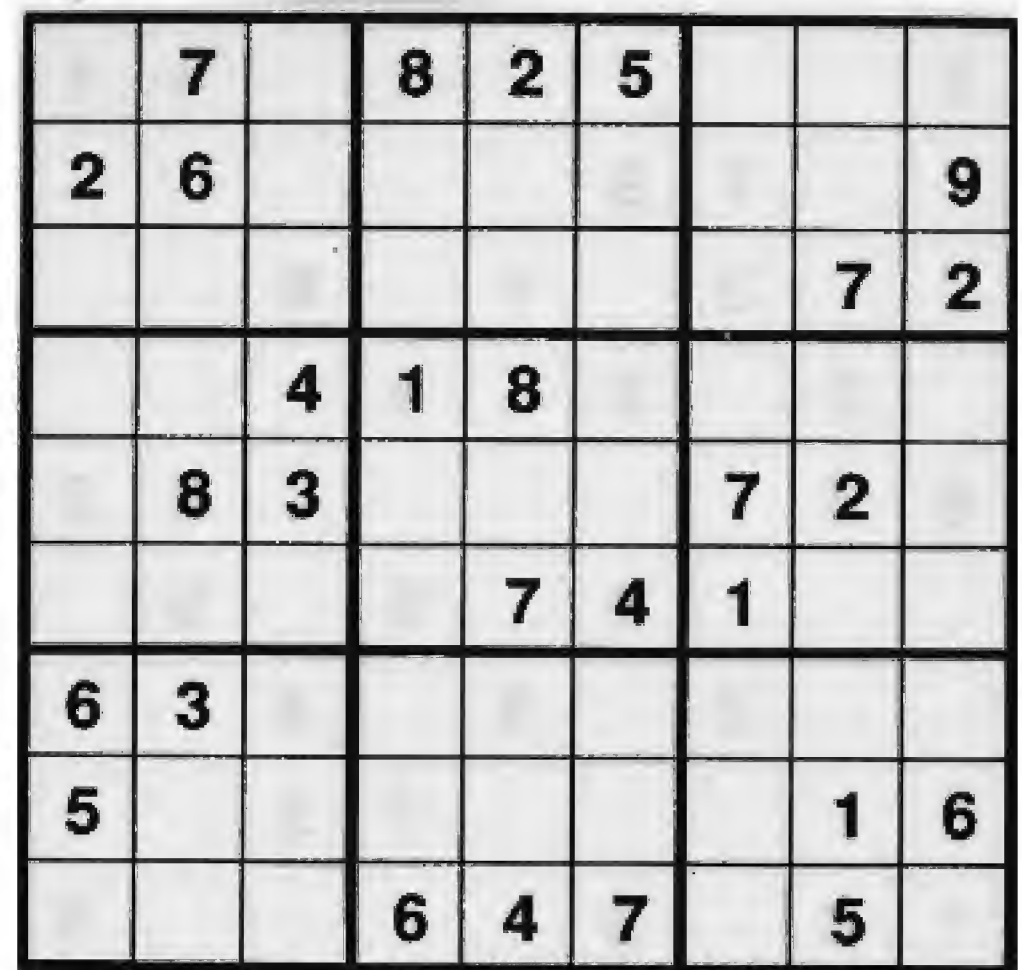
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Sudoku



SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

--Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area, also restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold

Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance

this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com

for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varela Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generation. As Varela says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

[queensaruba.com/](http://www.thequeensaruba.com/).

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.


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Football: Madrid held as Ronaldo sees red, Atletico go top

MADRID (AFP) - Cristiano Ronaldo was sent-off as Real Madrid lost ground in the La Liga title race with a 1-1 draw away to Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

Atletico Madrid became outright leaders for the first time since their double winning season in 1996 earlier in the day with a 4-0 win over Real Sociedad on Sunday.

The draw moves Real level with Barcelona, who suffered a shock defeat at home to Valencia on Saturday, three points behind Atletico.

It could have been so much better for Madrid as after a difficult opening 45 minutes, Jese Rodriguez looked to have them on the road to a 11th consecutive victory when he prodded home Ronaldo's cross 25



minutes from time.

However, after Ibai Gomez had spectacularly equalised, Ronaldo was shown a soft red card for lashing out at Carlos Gurpegi.

Earlier, Atletico moved top on an emotional evening at the Vicente Calderon, as former players and fans paid their trib-

utes to former Spain and Atletico player and coach Luis Aragonés, who died on Saturday, before the match.

The Atletico fans remained silent for the first eight minutes before beginning to chant Aragonés' name in a tribute to the number he wore as a player with Los Rojiblancos.

Golf: Stadler nabs elusive first US PGA Tour title

PHOENIX (AFP) - Kevin Stadler captured his first US PGA tour title in his 239th start Sunday, firing a final-round 68 for a one-shot Phoenix Open win over Bubba Watson and Graham DeLaet. Stadler's three-under effort gave him a 16-under total of 268 for the \$6.2 million tournament on the TPC Scottsdale Stadium Course. Stadler and 2012 Masters winner Watson were tied heading into the 72nd hole at 16-under par. Stadler, the son of 1982 Masters champion Craig Stadler, found the fairway off the tee while Watson was in the right rough. From 122 yards out, Watson flew the green as Stadler landed his second shot 11 feet from the pin. Stadler just missed his birdie putt and tapped in for par, but Watson, who chipped on, missed a five-footer and settled for a bogey and a share of second place. Watson finished with an even par 71 for 269. He was joined by Canada's DeLaet, who had seven birdies and one bogey in a 65 for his share of second. Japan's Hideki Matsuyama and American Hunter Mahan shared fourth on 270. Matsuyama carded a 69 on Sunday and Mahan 68.



BRIEFS:



MARGARITA ISLAND - Mexican Naranjeros de Hermosillo outshone Cuba's return to the Caribbean Series of baseball, defeating on Saturday the orange team of Santa Clara 9-4 in Margarita Island, Venezuela. The game began unfavorable to the Cuban team, which allowed two runs in the first inning, showing they had lost defensive concentration, faced with the power of the Mexican selection, which hammered starter Freddy Asiel Alvarez with four hits.



MARGARITA ISLAND - Kenny Vargas of Puerto Rico's Indios de Mayaguez celebrates after defeating Dominican Republic's Tigres de Licey, during their 2014 Caribbean baseball series, on Saturday, in Porlamar city, Venezuela. Puerto Rico beat the Dominican, 7-6.



MARGARITA ISLAND - Infielder Gil Velazquez of Mexico's Naranjeros de Hermosillo tags out Irving Falu of Puerto Rico's Indios de Mayaguez, Sunday, in Porlamar city, Venezuela. Mexico won 6-3.

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Golf: Good finish, pity about the rest from Woods

DUBAI (AFP) - Tiger Woods finished with a flourish at the Dubai Desert Classic on Sunday but it was a case of too little, too late from the world number one.

The 38-year-old American birdied his last three holes at the Emirates Golf Club to close with a 71 and a six-under total that left him languishing well down the field.

It was Woods's second tournament of the year and following his missed cut at Torrey Pines, California last week, his sojourn in the Gulf will have done little to raise his confidence levels.

"Unfortunately, turned it around too late," said Woods, who won the Desert Classic twice previously in 2006 and 2008.

"I drove it great today, pipped



it all day. My iron game was not as sharp as I would have liked, but then I also had seven lip outs today, so that's quite a few lip outs.

From all accounts, Woods will have plenty time to work on those tricky technique adjustments as he is expected to take a month off after Dubai before honing in on the year's first major, the Masters, at Augusta National in early April.

If that is true, it means that among the tournaments he will miss will be the WGC-Match Play tournament, which he has won three times previously.

Asked what his immediate schedule would be, Woods said jokingly: "I'm going to play every week from here on to the rest of the year. How's that?" Before adding "We'll see what happens."

There had been conjecture earlier in the year that Woods would take time off after Dubai to travel to Sochi for the Winter Olympics, where his girlfriend, champion downhill skier, Lindsey Vonn was due to compete.

But due to a knee injury she pulled out of the Games and instead Woods is now planning to play in a one-day private corporate event in New Delhi on Tuesday.

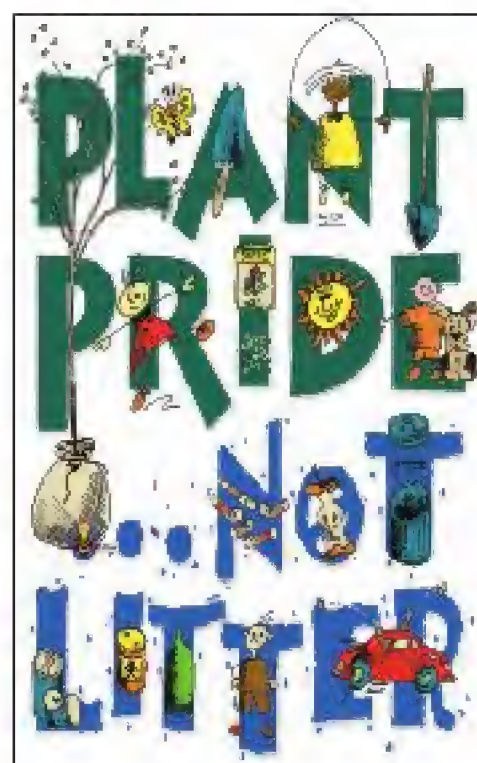
A leaner schedule would also not be a surprise given the repeated injuries Woods has

battled over the last few years, especially with his knees and last year with his back and wrist.

He finished the season last year complaining of tiredness and took a long winter break before re-emerging at Torrey Pines.

"The year basically gets pretty congested starting at the British Open," Woods said on Wednesday after playing in the Dubai pro-am.

At least Woods made one convert in Dubai on Sunday -- playing partner Pablo Larazabal, who tweeted: "I had a nice day out there -- I really enjoyed playing with Tiger Woods ... He is a better guy than a golfer."



NFL Goodell confident concussion deal will be approved



NEW YORK (AFP) - National Football League commissioner Roger Goodell said Friday he is confident the league's \$765 million concussion settlement with former players, denied preliminary approval by a federal judge, will eventually be approved.

US federal judge Anita Brody denied a preliminary approval of the settlement on January 14, saying she was not certain the money was enough to cover the needs of 20,000 retired players.

"She's making sure the settlement ... is going to work the way we intend it to work," Goodell said. "We're working with her experts to convince her the settlement we reached is enough. "We're confident we will get there."

Vernon Davis, a tight end for the San Francisco 49ers, asked Goodell why the NFL didn't provide free health care for life.

"I think the health benefits provided to current NFL players are the best in the world," Goodell said. "We have a lot to do for former players."

NFL medical officials said Thursday that concussions dropped by 13 percent last season after a crackdown on helmet-to-helmet contact.

Goodell said the league expects to have a code of conduct in the wake of the bullying situation involving Miami Dolphins offensive lineman Jonathan Martin being bullied by teammate Richie Incognito.

The league is considering medical advances regarding marijuana in the wake of its approval for recreational use in Colorado and Washington states, but noted it remains an illegal substance under federal law.

When it comes to future Super Bowl sites, cold weather cities figure to get some consideration after New York becomes the first outdoor Super Bowl in a cold-weather city.

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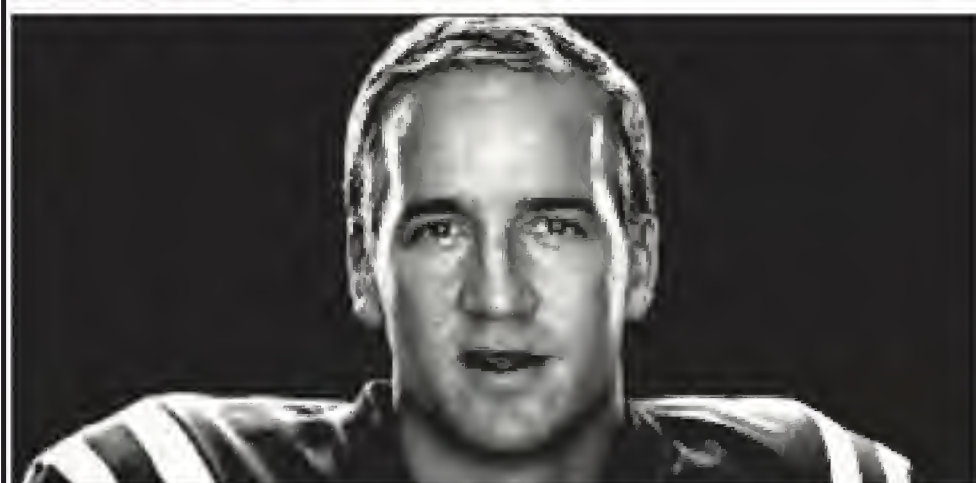
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NFL: Manning wins record fifth MVP award



NEW YORK (AFP) - Denver quarterback Peyton Manning, set to lead the Broncos in Super Bowl 48 on Sunday, captured an unprecedented fifth NFL Most Valuable Player award on Saturday. The 37-year-old signal-caller, who rewrote the National Football League record book this season, won in a landslide, collecting 49 of 50 votes from a nationwide media panel with the ballots tabulated by the Associated Press. New England quarterback Tom Brady received the only other vote for the regular-season honor. This season, Manning threw for an NFL single-season passing record 5,477 yards and a record 55 passing touchdowns for a Denver attack that scored an NFL record 606 points. Manning, who was also honored as the Offensive Player of the Year Saturday, completed 450-of-659 passes, had just 10 interceptions all season and finished with a QB rating of 115.1. He tied an NFL record by throwing for seven touchdown passes in the season opener against Baltimore. Manning's previous four MVP awards came with the Indianapolis Colts in 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2009. He finished second in voting to Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson last year.

NFL: Strahan, Brooks headed to Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AFP) - Michael Strahan, who helped the New York Giants win the 2008 Super Bowl, and ironman linebacker Derrick Brooks headline the Pro Football Hall of Fame 2014 class named Saturday. Other inductees announced at the National Football League honors ceremony on the eve of Super Bowl 48 included Walter Jones, Andre Reed, Aeneas Williams, Claude Humphrey and Ray Guy.

But Tony Dungy and Marvin Harrison, who teamed up as coach and wide receiver to win a Super Bowl together while with the Indianapolis Colts, were left off the list.

The newest members of the Hall of Fame were selected from a list of 17 finalists who had been determined earlier by the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Selection Committee.

Strahan, 42, was a defensive end for the New York Giants from 1993-2007 and was named the NFL Defensive Player of the year in 2001 after setting an NFL single-season record with 22 1/2 quarterback



sacks.

Brooks was a linebacker for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1995-2008. He made 11 Pro Bowls and never missed a game during his 14-season career.

Jones was an offensive tackle for the Seattle Seahawks from 1997-2009. A member of the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 2000s, he was named All-Pro six times and voted to nine Pro Bowls.

Reed caught 951 passes for 13,198 yards and 87 touchdowns in his 16-season career with the Buffalo Bills (1985-1999) and Washington Redskins (2000).

Williams was a cornerback

and safety with the Phoenix/Arizona Cardinals (1991-2000) and St. Louis Rams (2001-2004). A four-time All-Pro and eight-time Pro Bowl selection, he intercepted 55 passes for 807 yards and nine touchdowns during his 14-season career.

Humphrey was a defensive lineman with the Atlanta Falcons (1968-1978) and Philadelphia Eagles (1979-1981). He was named first-team All-Pro five times and earned six Pro Bowl nods during his career.

Guy is the first punter to make the Hall of Fame. He played with the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders from 1973-1986.